

Practitioner's Docket No.: 791_181

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: Akira MATSUMOTO and Masashi FUKUYAMA

Serial No.: 10/036,325 Group Art Unit: 1772

Filed: December 26, 2001 Examiner: Catherine A. Simone

Conf. No.: 3228

For: RIBBONED POLARIZATION-MAINTAINING FIBER AND
MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREFOR, AND POLARIZATION-
MAINTAINING OPTICAL FIBER ARRAY USING THE SAME

RULE 132 DECLARATION

I, Yasunori IWASAKI, a citizen of Japan, hereby declare and state that:

1. I have a Bachelors Degree in semiconductor processing, which was conferred upon me by the Faculty of Engineering at the Nagoya Institute of Technology in Nagoya, Japan in 1992.

2. I have been employed by NGK Insulators, Ltd. since 1996, during which time I have been involved in the research and development of optical devices.

3. I am familiar with the prosecution history of USSN 10/036,325, including the Office Action mailed June 14, 2006. I have reviewed the original text and drawings of JP 06-230246 (JP '246), which was asserted by the Examiner in the June 14 Office Action. I am fluent in Japanese.

4. It is my understanding that pending independent claim 21 recites that the cured ribbon portion surrounds the polarization-maintaining (P/M) fibers. It is also my understanding that the PTO Examiner is asserting that the cured adhesive surrounds the P/M fibers in the device disclosed in JP '246. This is incorrect.

5. I have prepared the attached drawings, which include sectional views of the JP '246 device taken at different positions along the length of the device.

Section 1 shows that each of the stripped P/M fibers contacts the locational "V" groove in two locations and the top plate at one location. Consequently, the cured adhesive (shown in light shading) does not surround the P/M fibers in Section 1.

Section 2 shows that each of the stripped P/M fibers contacts the locational "V" groove in two locations. Consequently, the cured adhesive does not surround the P/M fibers in Section 2.

Section 3 shows that the sheathed P/M fibers (the outer sheath of the P/M fiber being shown with dark shading) contact the lower substrate and the top plate. Consequently, the cured adhesive does not surround the P/M fibers in Section 3.

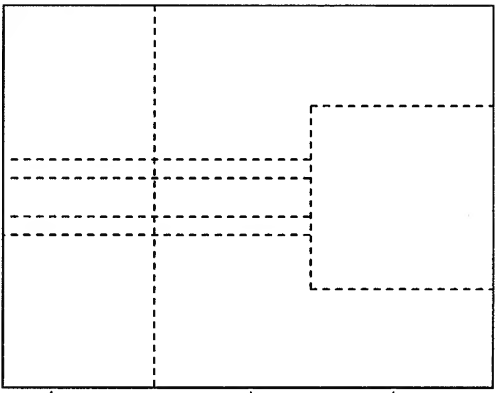
6. The attached drawings were prepared based upon the disclosure of JP '246 as interpreted using my many years of experience in this technology area. I consider myself to be one skilled in this art, and it is clear to me that the features recited in pending independent claim 21 are not disclosed or suggested by JP '246.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Sep. 12. 2006

Date

Yasunori Iwasaki
Yasunori IWASAKI

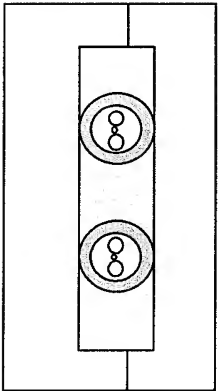


Section1

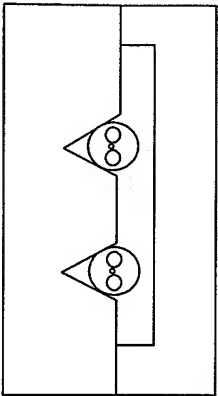
Section2

Section3

Section3



Section2



Section1

